

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as indicated below and add new claim 14.

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An automated authentication handling system for use by clients on a network comprising:

~~a plurality of application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication for success; and~~

an authentication server adapted to ~~authenticate at least one of said clients and~~ establish a two-way trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user to ~~at least one of said~~ a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.

2. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:

an identification engine configured to maintain collections of session assignments for accessing said application servers, each of said session assignment collections being associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the client identifier.


3. (Original) The automated authentication handling system of claim 2 wherein said identification engine is adapted to receive client identifiers from said clients to establish authenticated users and responsive thereto to

provide a user interface to access said application servers according to said associated session assignments.

4. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:

a communication initiator engine configured to establish [[a]] the trusted communication link between said authenticated users and [[said]] an application ~~servers~~ server on said list.

5. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 3 wherein said authentication server includes:

 a communication initiator engine configured to establish [[a]] the trusted communication link defined to one of said session assignments between said authenticated users and said application ~~servers~~ server.

6. (Original) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said session assignments include data fields selected from the group consisting of session timeout and application access level.

7. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said client ~~identifiers include~~ identifier includes a user id and password.

8. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes a processor under the control of software to:

receive an authentication signal from said client;

provide an application access interface to said client in response to said authentication signal; and

establish [[a]] the trusted communication link between said client and [[a]] an application server selected from said application access interface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically authenticating a client for a plurality of application servers comprising the steps of:

providing an authentication server;

identifying clients for access to said application servers by said authentication server; and

establishing a two-way trusted communication link between ~~at least one of said clients and at least one of said~~ a client and an application server selected from a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:

providing [[a]] session parameters for each of said identified clients for at least one of said application servers.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:

providing a user interface to said identified clients for accessing said application servers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said establishing step includes:

using said session parameters to establish said trusted communication link.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said user interface includes a listing of application servers and said establishing step is initiated following a selection of an application server by a user from said user interface.

14. (New) The method as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication for access.

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